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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,446	07/14/2005	Wilfried Krug	2002P20296WOUS	5112

7590 06/27/2007
Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

KAPLAN, HAL IRA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2836

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/542,446	KRUG, WILFRIED	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hal I. Kaplan	2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,10 and 13-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,10 and 13-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on July 14, 2005. These drawings are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The indicated allowability of claims 8, 10, and 14-23 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Baker et al., Latu et al., and Awata et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.
4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the US patent of Baker et al. (5,555,151).

As to claims 7, 15, and 22, Baker discloses a power supply circuit, comprising: a plurality of power supply components (110,112,114; 118,120,122) for supplying modules and/or interfaces of an electric system with voltage; and a regulating circuit (142,148,154,156,158) for regulating a first of the power supply components, wherein the regulating circuit is connected to the power supply components' power supply outputs between which a maximum of voltage differential (magnitude) occurs during

operation of the electric system, and wherein the regulating circuit is adapted that in case of deviation of the maximum voltage differential (magnitude) from a reference voltage value (predetermined threshold) the first power supply component will be adjusted such that the deviation (magnitude deviation) will be reduced (see column 3, lines 15-19; column 4, lines 49-66; column 5, lines 56-66; column 6, lines 11-26; and Figure 6).

As to claim 8, the modules (loads) are different modules (aircraft utilization equipment loads connected to a load bus) (see column 1, lines 18-35).

As to claim 10, the reference voltage value is a specified maximum voltage value (predetermined threshold) (see column 4, lines 60-66; column 5, lines 56-66; and column 6, lines 20-26).

As to claim 13, the first power supply component comprises a power supply output having a maximum output voltage of the power supply outputs of the power supply components (Baker does not specify which component is the first, which is the second, or which has the higher output voltage; however one of the power supply components must have an output voltage greater than or equal to that of the other component and thus has the maximum output voltage of the two components).

As to claim 21, one of the modules of Baker is a system module (aircraft utilization load) (see column 1, lines 26-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2836

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 14 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker.

As to claims 14 and 23, Baker does not disclose the claimed further power supply component, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have constructed the power supply circuit of Baker with at least three power supply components and circuitry to reduce the voltage deviation between any two of them, because it has been held that mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960). See MPEP §2144.04(VI)(B).

9. Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of the US patent of Latu et al. (6,757,386).

As to claim 16, Baker discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the claimed communication system. Latu discloses a communication system to which power can be supplied (see column 4, lines 35-40 and column 5, lines 26-52).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have used the power supply circuit of Baker to supply power to a communication system such as the system of Latu, in order to prevent circulating currents which can result in damage to one or both of the power sources (see Baker, column 3, lines 1-7).

As to claim 18, Latu discloses a SELV power supply interface (see column 4, lines 39-40 and column 5, lines 26-52).

10. Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of the US patent of Awata et al. (6,263,015).

As to claim 16, Baker discloses all of the claimed features, as set forth above, except for the claimed communication system. Awata discloses a communication system to which power can be supplied (see column 4, lines 7-13 and column 6, lines 12-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have used the power supply circuit of Baker to supply power to a communication system such as the system of Awata, in order to prevent circulating currents which can result in damage to one or both of the power sources (see Baker, column 3, lines 1-7).

As to claim 17, Awata discloses an analog subscriber line interface (see column 4, lines 7-13 and column 6, lines 12-14).

As to claim 19, Awata discloses a power supply module (12) (see column 7, lines 15-16 and Figures 4 and 6).

As to claim 20, Awata discloses a subscriber module (23) (see column 7, lines 25-27 and Figure 6).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hal I. Kaplan whose telephone number is 571-272-8587. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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